LISTING OF CLAIMS

The listing of claims provided below replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Previously Amended) A method for automated acquisition of assertions in a specification of a computer program, comprising:

receiving the specification as an input, wherein the specification includes a plurality of sentences describing the computer program;

obtaining a sentence from the plurality of sentences;

determining whether the obtained sentence is a testable assertion, wherein the testable assertion describes behavior of an application programming interface that can be tested;

marking the obtained sentence as testable when the obtained sentence is a testable assertion; and

using the sentences marked as testable to determine whether a test suite for testing the computer program is adequate.

2. (Previously Amended) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:

identifying a context within the specification.

3. (Previously Amended) The method as recited in claim 2, wherein the operation of obtaining the sentence from the plurality of sentences includes parsing the context to obtain the sentence.

4. (Previously Amended) The method as recited in claim 3, further comprising:

adding the marked obtained sentence to an assertion result set.

5. (Previously Amended) The method as recited in claim 4, wherein the context is a set of circumstances related to the obtained sentence.

6. (Previously Amended) The method as recited in claim 5, wherein each assertion includes at least one sentence of the specification.

7. (Previously Amended) The method as recited in claim 5, wherein each assertion includes at least two sentences of the specification.

8. (Previously Amended) A computer readable media including program instructions for automatically obtaining assertions from a specification of a computer program, comprising:

a code segment that receives the specification as an input;

a code segment that identifies a context within the specification;

a code segment that parses the identified context to obtain sentences;

a code segment that determines whether the obtained sentences are testable assertions, wherein each testable assertion is a sentence that describes behavior of an application programming interface that can be tested; and

a code segment that adds the testable assertions to an assertion result set, wherein the assertion result set can be used to facilitate testing of the specification.

9. (Previously Amended) The computer readable media of claim 8, further comprising:

a code segment that filters the identified context prior to parsing the context.

10. (Previously Amended) The computer readable media of claim 9, wherein the code segment that receives the specification is defined to receive the specification in a text format.

11. (Previously Amended) The computer readable media of claim 9, wherein the context is a set of circumstances related to the obtained sentences.

12. (Previously Amended) The computer readable media of claim 9, wherein each assertion includes at least one sentence of the specification.

13. (Previously Amended) The computer readable media of claim 9, wherein each assertion includes at least two sentences of the specification.

14. (Previously Amended) A computer readable media including program instructions for automated acquisition of assertions in a specification of a computer program, comprising:

a code segment that receives the specification in a text format, wherein the specification includes a plurality of sentences;

a code segment that obtains a sentence from the plurality of sentences;

a code segment that determines whether the obtained sentence is a testable assertion, wherein the testable assertion describes behavior of an application programming interface that can be tested; and

a code segment that marks the obtained sentence as testable when the obtained sentence is a testable assertion.

15. (Previously Amended) The computer readable media of claim 14, further comprising:

a code segment that identifies a context within the specification.

16. (Previously Amended) The computer readable media of claim 15, wherein the code segment that obtains the sentence from the plurality of sentences includes a code segment that parses the context to obtain the sentence.

17. (Previously Amended) The computer readable media of claim 16, further comprising:

a code segment that adds the marked obtained sentence to an assertion result set.

18. (Previously Amended) The computer readable media of claim 17, wherein the context is a set of circumstances related to the obtained sentence.

19. (Previously Amended) The computer readable media of claim 18, wherein each assertion includes at least one sentence of the specification.

20. (Previously Amended) The computer readable media of claim 19, wherein each assertion includes at least two sentences of the specification.